

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MC-02 ACDA-07 IGA-02 AID-05 EUR-12 /082 W

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P R 081334Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8873

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4236

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON F-5E AIRCRAFT DELIVERIES

REF: A) STATE 80282, B) KHARTOUM 92, C) STATE 81656,

D) STATE 84138

1. I DELIVERED TO FONMIN KIFLE TODAY TEXT OF GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN REF A AS MODIFIED BY REFS B AND C. I PREFACED BY POINTING OUT THAT DELIVERY WOULD INEVITABLY BE CONSPICUOUS, ADDING THAT MEMBERS OF ETHIOPIAN MEDIA HAVE ALREADY, IN CONVERSATION WITH EMB-OFFS, DISPLAYED KNOWLEDGE OF IMPENDING ARRIVAL. KIFLE HAD NO IMMEDIATE COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF GUIDANCE WHICH HE TERMED "A GOOD GUIDELINE." HE INSTRUCTED ACTING AMERICAN DESK OFFICER ALEMAYEHU SEIFU THIS AFTERNOON, HOWEVER, TO ASK DCM THAT WE DELETE FROM THE ANSWER TO THE FIRST QUESTION (REF A) THE NUMBER (EIGHT) OF F-5E'S BEING AIRLIFTED. DCM PROMISED TO TRANSMIT REQUEST TO DEPT. ALEMAYEHU ADDED THAT EPMG WOULD NOT AS MATTER OF POLICY PLAN TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT, AND SAID IF THEY HAD TO, HE THOUGHT IT WOULD FOLLOW ALONG LINES OF OURS.

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2. FONMIN KIFLE ASKED ABOUT PROGRESS OF OVERFLIGHT

CLEARANCES. I SAID I HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED BUT WAS SURE THAT CLEARANCE PROCEDURES WERE STARTED APRIL 1 AS SCHEDULED. HE AGAIN EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT REQUESTING OVERFLIGHT OF SUDAN (ADDIS 3749 - NOTAL), WHICH HE SEEMED TO FEEL WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE EASY TO GET. HE SUGGESTED THAT EMBASSY SHOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ETHIOPIAN MILITARY TO GET ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS ABOUT ROUTING AND OVERFLIGHTS. I REPLIED THAT NORMAL USG PROCEDURE FOR OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES OF USAF AIRCRAFT WOULD BE TO FOLLOW OUR OWN PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES, AND THAT I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONSULT WITH EPMG MILITARY ON THIS MATTER WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON. HE ASKED WHETHER APRIL 15 IS STILL PROPOSED DATE, AND I REMINDED HIM THAT PROPER PHRASE IS "PLANNING DATE" FOR DELIVERY. I SAID I WOULD HOPE IN NEAR FUTURE TO HAVE FIRMER DATE TO GIVE EPMG, AFTER PROGRESS ON OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES IS KNOWN.

HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, GUIDANCE INSTRUCTIONS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS04236
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760133-0558
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760485/aaaacuid.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 80282, 76 KHARTOUM 92, 76 STATE 81656
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS GUIDANCE ON F-5E AIRCRAFT DELIVERIES
TAGS: MASS, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006